Elliot Dorff, Ph.D., Rector and Distinguished Professor of Philosophy, University of Judaism, Los Angeles, CA

Dr. Dorff was ordained a Conservative rabbi by the Jewish Theological Seminary of America in 1970 and earned his Ph.D. in philosophy from Columbia University in 1971 with a dissertation in moral theory. Since then he has directed the rabbinical and Masters programs at the University of Judaism, where he currently is Rector and Distinguished Professor of Philosophy. He also teaches a course on Jewish law at UCLA School of Law. As a member, and currently Vice Chair of the Conservative Movement's Committee on Jewish Law and Standards, his papers have formulated the validated stance of the Conservative Movement on infertility treatments and on end-of-life issues, and his Rabbinic Letters on human sexuality and on poverty have become the voice of the Conservative Movement on those topics. He has chaired two scholarly organizations, the Academy of Jewish Philosophy and the Jewish Law Association. In Spring, 1993, he served on the Ethics Committee of Hillary Rodham Clinton's Health Care Task Force; in March 1998 and May 1999, he testified on behalf of the Jewish tradition on the subjects of human cloning and stem cell research before the President's National Bioethics Advisory Commission; and in 1999 and 2000 he worked on the Surgeon General's commission to draft a Call to Action for Responsible Sexual Behavior. In Los Angeles he is a member of the Ethics Committee of the Jewish Homes for the Aging and of UCLA Medical Center. His publications include over one hundred articles on Jewish thought, law, and ethics, together with eight books, including one on bioethics: Matters of Life and Death: A Jewish Approach to Modern Medical Ethics (Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society, 1998).